

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-40 (Cancelled)

41 (Currently Amended). A GILR protein capable of inhibiting apoptosis and stimulating lymphocyte activity, wherein said GILR protein:

a) is encoded by the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1; or

(b) contains no more than ten amino acid changes from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, said changes being alternative conservative substitutions within the five groups of amino acid residues of Table B or by a nucleotide sequence capable of hybridizing with SEQ ID NO:1, under hybridization conditions of 5 x SSC, 5 x Denhardt's solution, 1% SDS, 100  $\mu$ l tRNA, and 20 mM sodium pyrophosphate (pH 6.8) at 42°C and under washing conditions of 0.2 x SSC, 0.1% SDS at 65°C, wherein said GILR protein is capable of inhibiting apoptosis and stimulating lymphocyte activity.

Claims 42-45 (Cancelled).

46 (Previously presented). A pharmaceutical composition for the inhibition of apoptosis in cells or for stimulating lymphocyte activation, comprising, as an active ingredient, the GILR protein of claim 41.

47 (Previously presented). A GILR protein of claim 41, wherein said GILR protein is chemically modified by being conjugated or complexed with molecules facilitating or enhancing the transport of said GILR protein across cell membrane and wherein the chemically modified GILR protein has the same or higher biological activity as said GILR protein.

48 (Previously presented). A pharmaceutical composition for the inhibition of apoptosis in cells or for stimulating lymphocyte activation, comprising, as an active ingredient, the chemically modified GILR protein of claim 47.

Claims 49-50 (Cancelled).

51 (New). The GILR protein of claim 41, which contains no more than five amino acid changes from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

52 (New). The GILR protein of claim 41, which contains no more than three amino acid changes from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.